

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) The computer-~~storage~~readable medium ~~storing~~with computer-readable instructions that when executed provide for a hardware/software interface system for a computer system, wherein said hardware/software interface system manipulates a plurality of items, the items comprising discrete units of information pertaining to an image and having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system-~~(“Items”)~~, wherein said hardware/software interface system comprises an image schema to define at least one of an image item and at least one of an image property.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 2 wherein at least one of an item[[Item]] in the image schema is a foundational item[[Item]], constituting a foundational item[[Item]] type, from which all other image items[[Items]] manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 3 wherein said foundational image item[[Item]] type comprises at least one property from among the following group of properties: a rating; a size, wherein size constitutes the width or height of the image in pixels; an image bit depth; a color space; a version of a color space; a number of times said image has been printed; a region of interest in said image; a history pertaining to said image; a digital negative identification; a collection of links to other versions of the same image; and a metadata lifecycle for an image.

5-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 3 wherein said hardware/software interface system comprises a photo schema to define at least one of an photo item[[Item]] and at least one of an photo property, and wherein said photo item[[Item]] type is an extension of an image item[[Item]] type.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein at least one of an item[[Item]] in the photo schema is a foundational item[[Item]], constituting a foundational item[[Item]] type, from which all other photo items[[Items]] manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein said foundational photo item[[Item]] type comprises at least one property from among the following group of properties: a date said photo was taken; said date a photo was acquired; a unique identification of an acquisition session for said photo; an orientation; a location; an event; a make of a camera; a model of a camera; an exposure time; an aperture; an ISO speed; an indication of whether a flash was used for said photo; an indication of whether a red-eye mode was used for said photo; an exposure mode; and a distance of the subject of said photo.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A system for manipulating a plurality of items, the items comprising discrete units of information pertaining to an image and having properties understandable by a hardware/software interface system (~~“Items”~~), said ~~method~~ system comprising:

a processor;

a computer storage media storing computer executable instructions that when executed provide:

an image schema to define at least one of an image item[[Item]] and at least one of an image property, where said image item[[Item]] in the image schema is a foundational item[[Item]], constituting a foundational item[[Item]] type, from which all other image items[[Items]] manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein at least one of a property in the image schema is a property for a region of said image, the region property comprising fields for the left, top, right, and bottom coordinates of said region.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein at least one of a property in the image schema is a property for a region of interest of said image, the region of interest property comprising a field for a region.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein said region of interest property of said image further comprises a field for a principal (~~e.g., a person~~).

22. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein said region of interest property of said image further comprises a field for a confidence.

23-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 wherein at least one of an item[[Item]] in the photo schema is a foundational item[[Item]], constituting a foundational item[[Item]] type, from which all other photo items[[Items]] manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27 wherein said hardware/software interface system comprises an analysis properties schema to define at least one analysis property (AP) of a photo item[[Item]] and at least one of an AP property, and wherein said photo item[[Item]] type is an extension of an image item[[Item]] type.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 29 wherein said at least one AP comprises at least one property from among the following group of properties: a color histogram; a gray histogram; and a similarity index.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for a hardware/software interface system to manipulate a plurality of items, the items comprising discrete units of information pertaining to an image having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system (~~an “image-Item”~~), said method comprising:

establishing an image schema to define at least one of an image item[[Item]] and at least one of an image property; and

establishing an item[[Item]] in the image schema as a foundational item[[Item]], constituting a foundational item[[Item]] type, from which all other image items[[Items]] manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived.

32-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising, in order to represent a ~~geographic~~geographic location where a photographic digital image item[[Item]] (~~a Photo~~) was taken, establishing a ~~relationship~~Relationship (~~a Location-Relationship~~) between said ~~Photo~~ photographic digital image item and a location item[[Item]] (~~a Location~~) corresponding to said geographic location, such that said ~~photographic digital image item~~Photo can be queried based on said ~~location item~~Location.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36 further comprising, in order to represent a ~~geographic~~geographic location where a photographic digital image item[[Item]] (a ~~Photo~~) was ~~taken~~take, setting a location property (~~LocProp~~) on said ~~relationship~~Location Relationship to correspond to said geographic location.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising, in order to represent at least one person in a photographic digital image item[[Item]] (a ~~Photo~~), establishing a ~~relationship~~Relationship between said ~~photographic digital image item~~Photo and an item[[Item]] pertaining to said person (a ~~Contact~~), such that said ~~photographic digital image item~~Photo can be queried based on said item pertaining to said person~~Contact~~.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising, in order to represent at least one event represented in a photographic digital image item[[Item]] (a ~~Photo~~), establishing a ~~relationship~~Relationship between said ~~photographic digital image item~~Photo and an item[[Item]] pertaining to said event (an ~~Event~~), such that said ~~photographic digital image item~~Photo can be queried based on said item pertaining to said event~~Event~~.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising establishing a ~~relationship~~Relationship from a first digital image item[[Item]] (an ~~Image~~) to a second digital image item~~Image~~ that is either (a) a parent digital image item~~Image~~ from which said first digital image item~~Image~~ is derived or (b) a child digital image item~~Image~~ that has been derived from said first digital image item~~Image~~.